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Introduction

This review - *intended for the general public, governments and industries* - is composed of items written by the present author and excerpts of scientific papers, report or articles written by others. It also contains public comments.

To allow rapid review, important items of information are highlighted throughout this briefing document.

"Today, more that ever before, science holds the key to our survival as a planet and our security and prosperity as a nation. It's time we once again put science at the top of our agenda ... It's about listening to what our scientists have to say, even when it's inconvenient, especially when it's inconvenient."

US President Barack Obama (2008).

Reference

Obama, B. (2008), The search for knowledge, truth and a greater understanding of the world around us. President-elect Obama's Weekly Address 20 December 2008, Change. Gov, The Office of the President Elect, http:://www.change.gov/newsroom/entry/the_search_for_knowledge_truth_and _a_greater_understanding_of_the_world_aro/%5d